

5    THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE:

1.     A storage device for use with at least one article, said storage device including a body, said body including at least one substantially elongate backbone and at least one substantially elongate tine interconnected thereto but separated there from by a defined distance to form a channel adapted to receive the article positioned therein, and further including supporting means attachable to said body.
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2.     A storage device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the storage device optionally includes latching apparatus capable of co-operating with either or both the backbone and the tine, to maintain the defined distance between the backbone and the tine during storage of a article by the storage device.
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3.     A storage device for use with at least one article, as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the article may include a lead, cord, rope, chain, solid sheet or elongate material.
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4.     A storage device for storing at least one article as claimed in Claim 3 wherein the storage device is configured to store, carry or use the article within or relative to the storage device.
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5.     A storage device for storing at least one article as claimed in Claim 2 wherein the elongate backbone and the tine of the body both include a free top distal end to create an opening for insertion of the article there between.
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6.     A storage device for storing at least one article as claimed in Claim 5 wherein the elongate backbone and the tine of the body include a bottom distal end which are interconnected to form the channel.
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7.     A storage device for storing at least one article as claimed in Claim 6 wherein the width of the channel formed between the backbone and the tine is defined by the diameter, or width, of at least one article to be stored in the device.

- 5 8. A storage device for storing at least one article as claimed in Claim 7 wherein the width of the channel is determined to enable only one width of the article to be fed down the channel at any one time.
- 10 9. A storage device for storing at least one article as claimed in Claim 9 wherein where the article is a lead, subsequent looping of the lead enables further widths of the lead to be fed down the channel such that, with each subsequent loop, the section of lead within the channel sits substantially atop an adjacent previous looped section of the lead.
- 15 10. A storage device for use with at least one article as claimed in Claim 9 wherein the channel is substantially uniform along its length.
11. A storage device for use with at least one article as claimed in Claim 10 wherein the channel is substantially U-shaped.
- 20 12. A storage device for use with at least one article Claim 9 wherein the channel is substantially non-linear and/or non-uniform along its length.
- 25 13. A storage device for storing at least one article as claimed in Claim 2 wherein the latching apparatus contributes to maintaining the defined distance between the backbone and the tine during storage of the article by the storage device, by preventing the weight of the article stored within the channel from forcing the backbone and the tine to splay apart from each other.
- 30 14. A storage device for storing articles as claimed in Claim 13 wherein the latching apparatus is attached towards the top distal end of either the backbone, or the tine.
15. A storage device for storing articles as claimed in Claim 14 wherein where the latching apparatus is attached towards the top distal end of the backbone, a

- 5           portion of the latching apparatus is capable of looping over the top distal end of the tine, or vice versa.
16.       A storage device for storing at least one article as claimed in Claim 15 wherein the latching apparatus may be used as, or adapted to include, a handle for gripping  
10       the storage device in use, or for hanging the storage device when being stored.
17.       A storage device for storing at least one article as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the supporting means includes at least one of a handle, a bracket, a frame.
- 15       18.       A storage device for storing at least one article as claimed in Claim 17 wherein the handle is configured for gripping the storage device in use, or for hanging the storage device when being stored, or is operable as the latching apparatus.
19.       A storage device for storing at least one article as claimed in Claims 16 and 17  
20       wherein a portion of either or both the latching apparatus and the supporting means is adapted to pivot.
20.       A storage device for storing at least one article as claimed in Claim 19 wherein the portion of the latching apparatus and/or of the supporting means are adapted to  
25       pivot through an arc of up to 360°.
21.       A storage device for storing at least one article as claimed in Claim 20 wherein pivoting of the latching apparatus enables the latching apparatus to move between an opened orientation to a closed orientation relative to the backbone and tine.
- 30       22.       A storage device for storing at least one article as claimed in Claim 20 wherein pivoting of a portion of the supporting means enables the backbone and tine supported thereby, to operate between a storage position and a releasing position relative to the article stored therein.

- 5 23. A storage device for storing at least one article as claimed in Claims 16 and 17 wherein a portion of either or both the latching apparatus and the supporting means is adapted to rotate.
- 10 24. A storage device for storing at least one article as claimed in Claim 23 wherein the latching apparatus and/or the supporting means are adapted to rotate up to 360°.
- 15 25. A storage device for storing at least one article as claimed in Claim 24 wherein rotation of the latching apparatus enables the latching apparatus to be moved to latch adjacent tines in embodiments where multiple tines are included.
- 20 26. A storage device for storing at least one article as claimed in Claim 24 wherein rotation of the supporting means enables the backbone and tine to be rotated in any direction to release the article, specifically where the article is a lead, hose, rope, or similar.
- 25 27. A storage device as claimed in Claim 6 wherein the interconnected backbone and tine are pivotally connected to enable the tine to pivot down relative to the backbone for fast release of the article from the storage device.
- 30 28. A storage device as claimed in Claims 19 and 27 wherein the storage device includes tension means associated with the pivoting portions of the supporting means, the body, and/or the tine, to facilitate return of the storage device to its storage configuration following release of the article from the storage device.
- 35 29. A storage device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the backbone is adapted to slide relative to the supporting means to enable the body of the storage device to be moved from a storage position up and out through at least a 90 ° arc to a release position for fast release of the article from the storage device.

- 5     30.     A storage device as claimed in Claim 6 wherein the interconnected backbone and  
tine are adjustably connected to enable the dimensions of the channel to be  
adjusted relative to the dimensions of the article being stored in the storage  
device.
- 10    31.     A storage device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the tines are adapted to receive  
either or both additional, longer, or extendable tines removably or permanently  
attached to the backbone or in association with existing tines to accommodate  
articles of increased length.
- 15    32.     A storage device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein additional backbones may be  
included from which at least one tine may extend.
- 20    33.     A storage device as claimed in Claim 17 wherein where the supporting means  
includes a frame, the frame is adapted to receive optional motive means to  
facilitate transport of the storage device and included article to and from an area  
for use.
- 25    34.     A storage device as claimed in Claim 17 wherein where the supporting means  
includes a bracket, one or more brackets are adapted to be affixed to support  
surfaces for receiving and/or relocating the body of the storage device and  
included article to and from an area for use.
- 30    35.     A method of manufacturing a storage device for storing at least one article, said  
storage device including a body, said body including at least one substantially  
elongate backbone and at least one substantially elongate tine interconnected  
thereto but separated there from by a defined distance to form a channel adapted  
to receive the article positioned therein, and further including supporting means  
attachable to said body.

- 5 36. A method of varying the article storage capacity of a storage device for storing  
either or both articles such as leads and articles such as substantially solid sheet  
materials and the like, said storage device including a body, said body including a  
substantially elongate backbone and multiple substantially elongate tines  
interconnected to said backbone, but each tine separated from the backbone by a  
10 defined distance to each other to form a channel adapted to receive the article  
positioned therein, said each tine also being further separated from each other by a  
defined distance, and said storage device further including supporting means  
attachable to said body.

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